

**WENT
BLIND**

SYNTHETIC

SPIDER-MAN



LAND
fig

MARVEL 3

PETER DAVID
GREG LAND
JAY LEISTEN
FRANK D'ARMATA

IN MEMORIAM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELIOT R. BROWN

MIKE HOBSON 1936–2020



Last month, longtime Marvel Comics Publisher Mike Hobson passed away. In remembrance of his life and work, Mike's friend and colleague Tom DeFalco, former Marvel Editor in Chief, shared his memories of the Marvel luminary.

Many are the unsung heroes of the comic book industry. These people are the hidden giants who work behind the scenes — without credit, fanfare or fame — but are essential to the creation of your comics. They are people like Mike Hobson.

As a supervisor at Marvel, Mike was the greatest. He encouraged initiative, listened with an open mind and always supported his people. He rarely raised his voice and had a near-magical way of defusing tense situations. (Mixing creative people with those from marketing, sales or accounting is usually a recipe for disaster.)

Mike defined the word “gentleman.” He was refined and soft-spoken, had an infectious laugh and was an intriguing conversationalist, well-versed in a variety of subjects. He knew the best restaurants, the tastiest dishes, the most flavorful wines and the finest hotels. An invitation to dine with Mike was always a treasured event. He was the adult we all wanted to be when we grew up.

Whenever I think of Mike, two occasions spring to mind. One is the very first time Marvel sent me on a business trip by myself. Mike asked to see me before I left. I went to his office with pen and pad, expecting some last-minute business instructions. Instead, he told me to make sure I made lunch and dinner reservations and gave me a list of restaurants.

I also recall sitting in my office one afternoon when a furious Mike burst in.

“Do you know what those two idiots are doing?” He asked.

“Which two idiots?” I responded.

Mike glared at me for a moment and then suddenly exploded in unrestrained laughter. He actually fell into my couch, and it took him several minutes to regain control. It seems two of my editors had stuck a fishing pole out our seventh-floor window with an old Milky Way for bait and were trolling for passersby. While Mike could appreciate the humor in the situation, he felt our editors needed to adhere to a higher standard of professionalism. That was Mike.

Mike Hobson was my boss and my friend. He will be missed.

Tom DeFalco
November 2020





AFTER THE FIRST SECRET WARS, PETER PARKER RETURNED HOME TO NEW YORK CITY WITH A BRAND-NEW COSTUME HE THOUGHT HAD BEEN CRAFTED BY ALIEN TECHNOLOGY. IT COULD RESPOND TO HIS EVERY THOUGHT, SHAPE-SHIFT TO MIMIC HIS CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND EVEN GENERATE A SEEMINGLY ENDLESS SUPPLY OF HIS UNIQUE WEBBING!

NOW IN HIS SLEEK ALL-BLACK COSTUME, PETER PARKER BALANCES HIS PERSONAL LIFE, HIS PHOTOGRAPHY JOB FOR *THE DAILY BUGLE* AND HIS SUPER-HEROICS AS HE SWINGS THROUGH THE CITY AS THE AMAZING, FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

THOUGH, UNBEKNOWNST TO PETER, HIS ALIEN COSTUME MAY BE MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE...

SYNOPSIS SPIDER-MAN

THE SWORD AND THE SPIRIT PART THREE

AFTER ALISTAIR SMYTHE WAS CONSUMED BY A MYSTERIOUS BLACK SPECTER CALLING HIMSELF **MISTER E**, THE RESULTING ABOMINATION TRANSFORMED ALL OTHER HUMANS IN THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE, INCLUDING PETER PARKER'S COWORKER NED LEEDS, INTO SHADOW CREATURES!

WHILE SPIDER-MAN WAS BUSY SAVING NED, **THE BLACK KNIGHT** LEARNED FROM **MISTER E**—DISGUISED AS **MERLIN**—THAT THE **EBONY BLADE** MIGHT BE ONE OF THE ONLY WEAPONS THAT COULD HURT **MISTER E**'S CREATOR, THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES, **KNULL**. TAKING THE BLADE AND STABBING **BLACK KNIGHT** WITH IT, **MISTER E** ESCAPED...JUST AS **KANG** AND **ROCKET RACCOON** ARRIVED AT **AVENGERS MANSION**!

PETER DAVID WRITER // **GREG LAND** PENCILER
JAY LEISTEN INKER // **FRANK D'ARMATA** COLORIST
VC's **JOE SABINO** LETTERER

GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA COVER ARTISTS

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PATRICK McGRATH KING IN BLACK LOGO DESIGN

JAY BOWEN KING IN BLACK TRADE DRESS DESIGN

ANTHONY GAMBINO RECAP PAGE DESIGN

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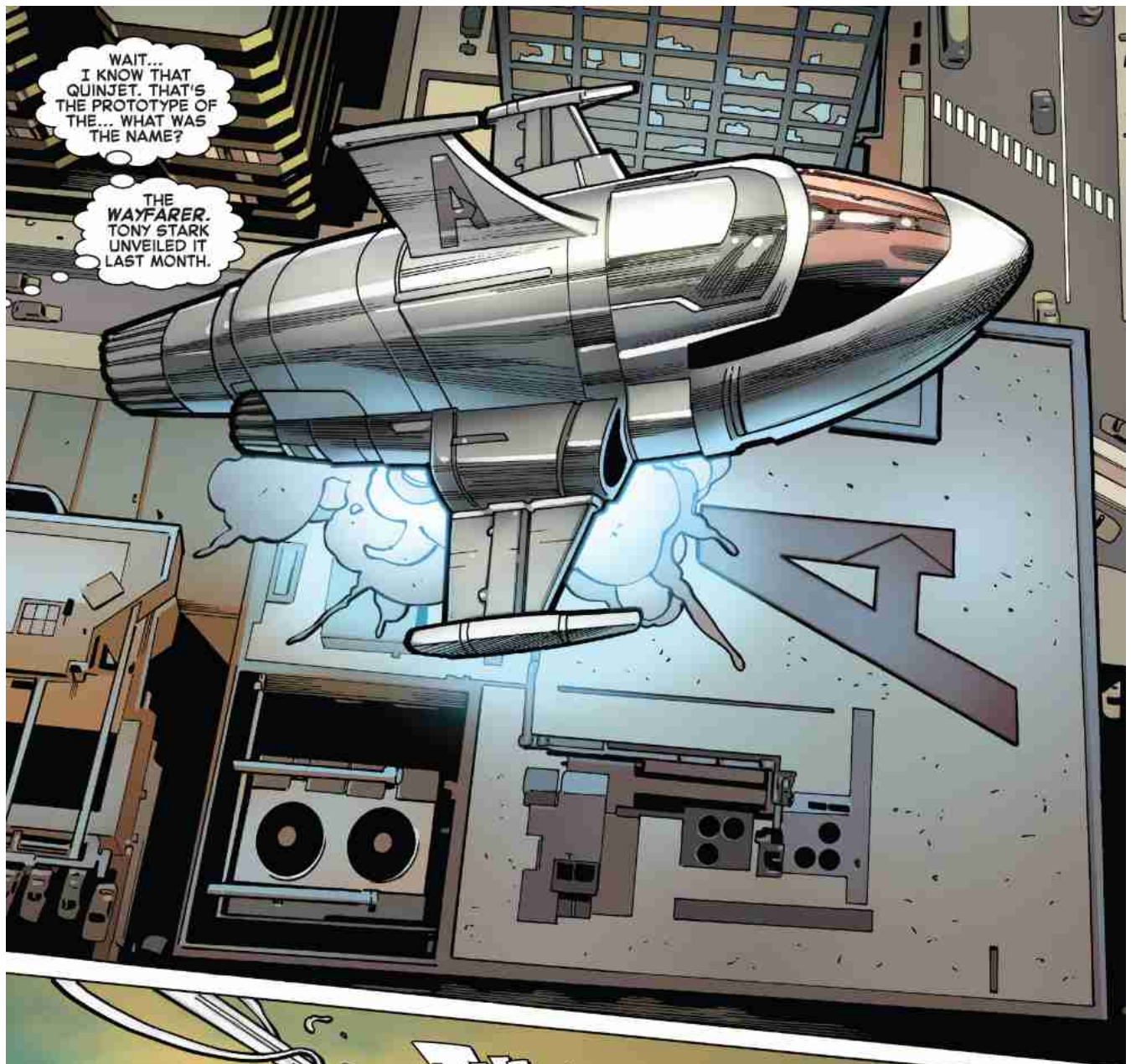
NICK LOWE EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.D. CEDULSKI EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

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WAIT...
I KNOW THAT
QUINJET. THAT'S
THE PROTOTYPE OF
THE... WHAT WAS
THE NAME?

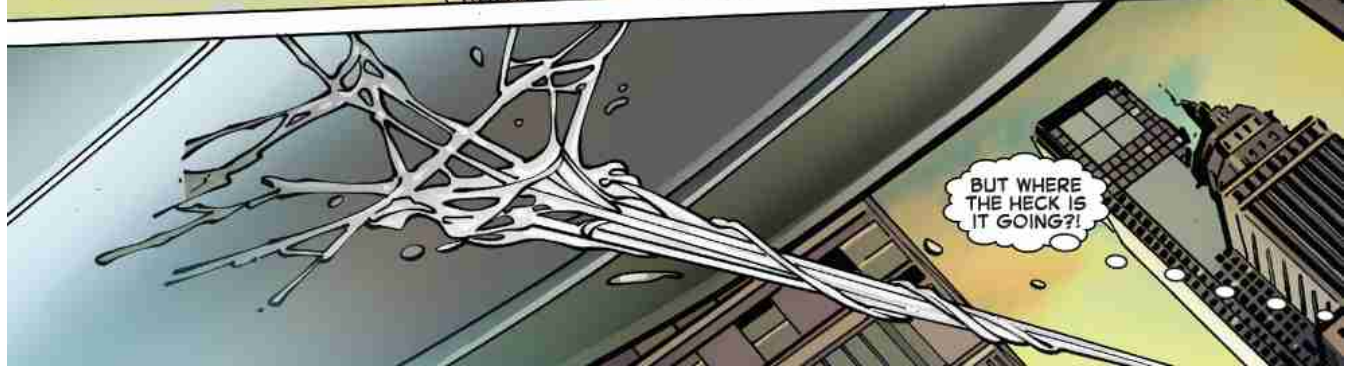
THE
WAYFARER.
TONY STARK
UNVEILED IT
LAST MONTH.



CAN ESCAPE
EARTH'S GRAVITY
AND HAS AN FTL*
DRIVE. SUPPOSED TO
BE JUST THE THING IF
WE HAVE TO FIGHT
INVADING SKRULLS
OR SOME SUCH.

WE CAN TAKE
THE BATTLE TO
SPACE INSTEAD OF
JUST WAITING AROUND
FOR THEM TO INVADE
US. STARK WANTS TO
MAKE A FLEET
OF THEM.

*THAT'S FASTER THAN LIGHT.
WEB-HEADS! --EDITOR

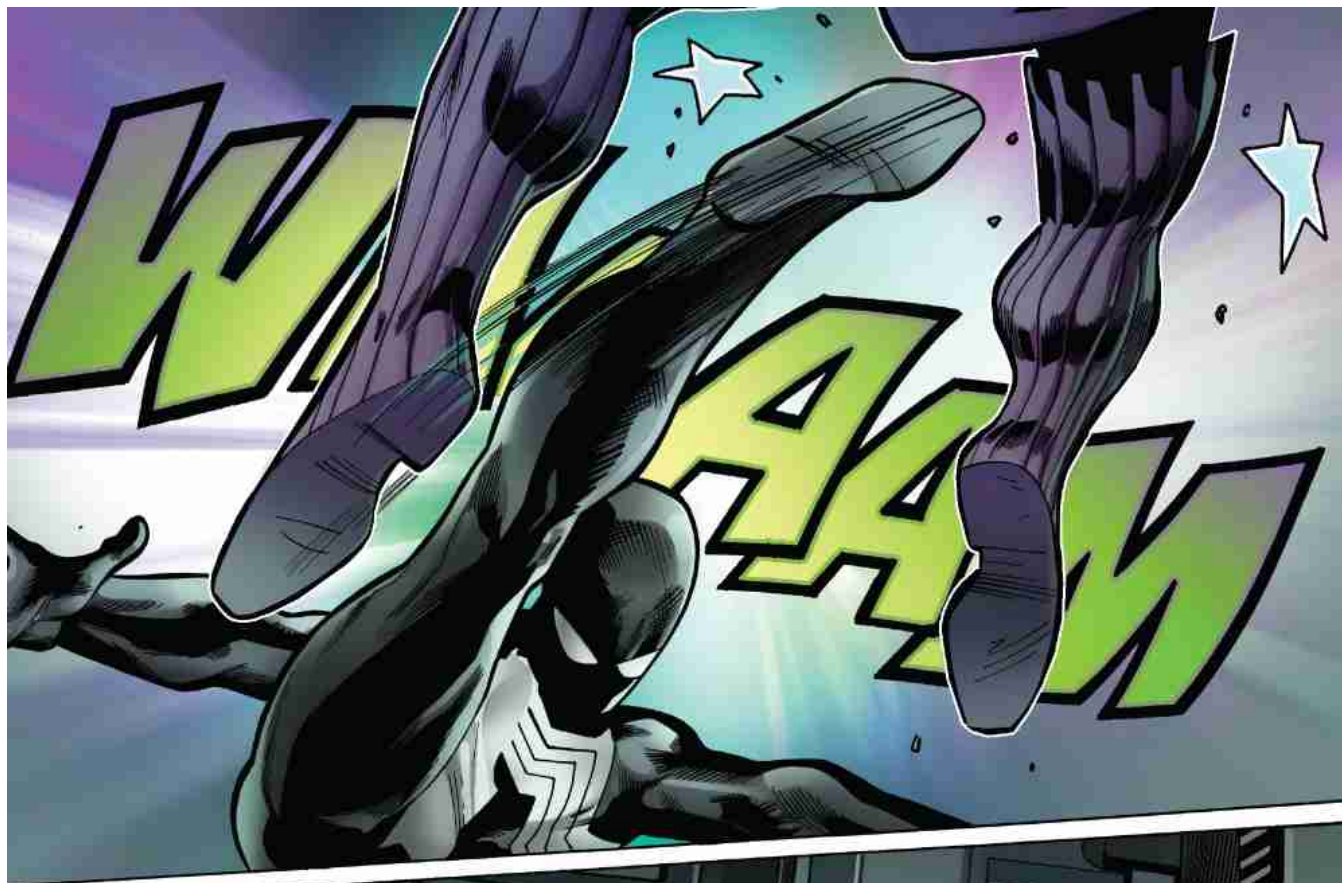


BUT WHERE
THE HECK IS
IT GOING?!

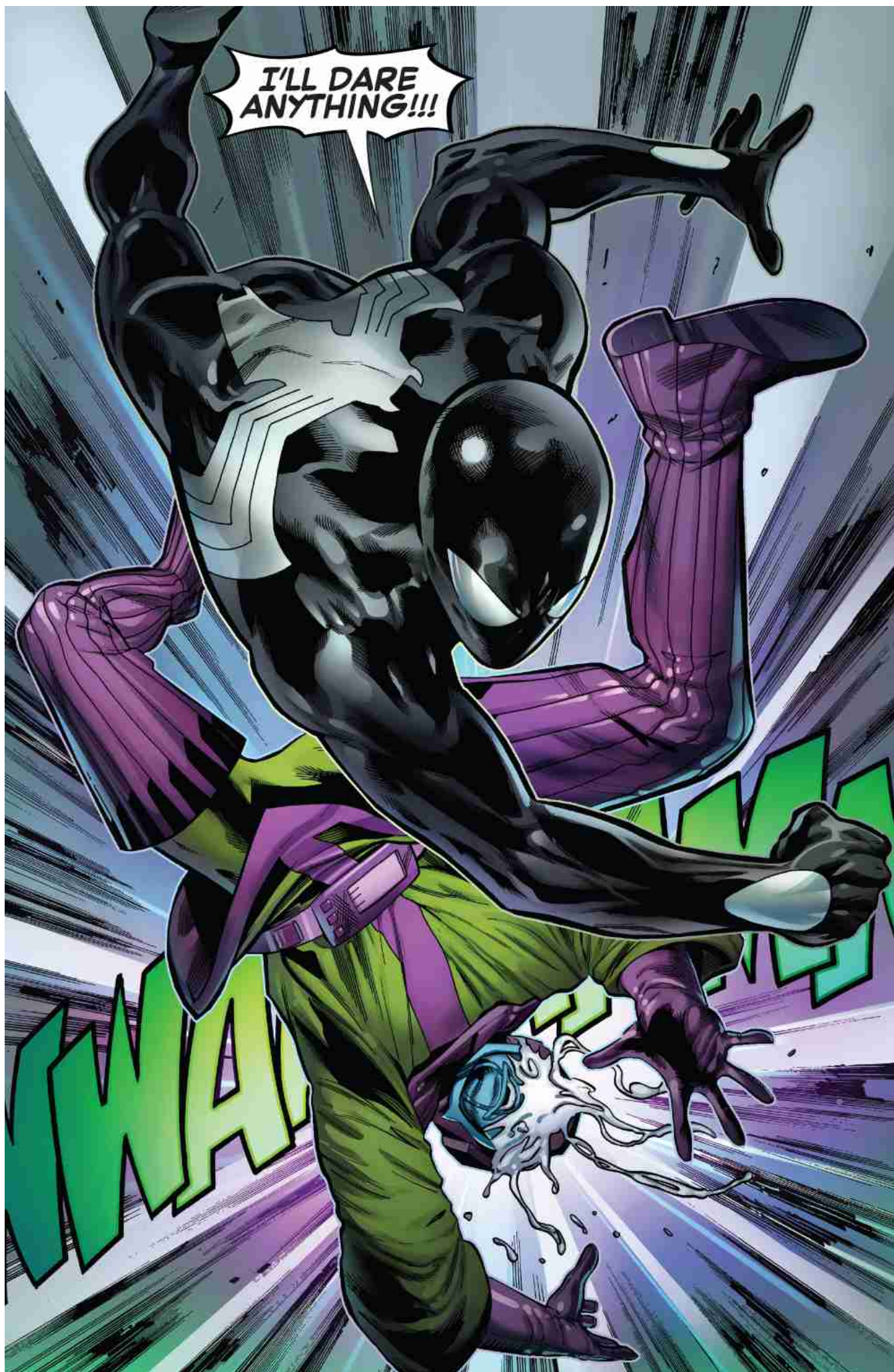
WHOA! STARK
WASN'T KIDDING
ABOUT THIS THING'S
ENGINES!











I'LL DARE
ANYTHING!!!













...FROM A PATIENT.

OH...
WONDERFUL.

WELL,
I'LL BE.

SO
WHO'S THE
GIRL?

CAPTAIN
MARVEL.

NOT
ANYMORE.

NAH.
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S
A KREE GUY.

CAP? YOU
OKAY?

I...
I'M NOT
SURE...

WHERE...
AM I...?

SPIDER-MAN?
IS THAT YOU...?

YEAH.
LOOK, UH--



KANG!!!



AND
HERE WE
GO.





MINUTES
LATER...

I'M NOT SURE
WHAT HAPPENED.
ONE MINUTE I WAS
TAKING A NAP, AND
THE NEXT...



...THIS
SHADOWY THING
HAD TAKEN ME
OVER. IT WAS
INSIDE MY
HEAD...

SAME THING
HAPPENED TO A
FRIEND OF MINE. HE
SAID THAT HE WAS
INSIDE ITS HEAD
AS WELL.



YES! YES.
I WAS. I... I
COULD HEAR ITS
THOUGHTS.

ALL THESE
SHADOW MINDS...
THEY'RE LINKED.
WHAT ONE KNOWS,
ALL OF THEM
KNOW.



DID THEY
TAKE THE
BLACK KNIGHT'S
SWORD?

YES, THEY
DID. THEY'RE
AFRAID OF
IT.

THEY THINK
IT CAN DESTROY
THEIR LORD AND
MASTER.

SO WE NEED
TO GET IT BACK
AND USE IT
OURSELVES.



OH, RIGHT.
KANG THE GOOD
SAMARITAN.

YOU WANT
TO BRING THAT
SWORD TO THE
SIDE OF THE
ANGELS?

BULL.
YOU JUST
WANT TO
RULE.

TRUE.
SO TELL
ME...



WHO
WOULD I RULE
IF EVERYONE
WERE DEAD?



...





WE DON'T
HAVE TO GUESS.
I KNOW WHERE
THEY'RE TAKING
IT.

KNOWHERE.

"NOWHERE"?
WHY DOES THIS
SOUND LIKE THE
START OF AN ABBOTT
AND COSTELLO
ROUTINE?

K-N-O-W.
KNOWHERE.
I KNOW THE
PLACE.

IT'S A
PLACE?

"IT'S A GIANT SPACE
STATION AT THE END
OF THE UNIVERSE.
THE SEVERED HEAD
OF A CELESTIAL.

"VARIOUS RACES SET
UP SHOP THERE TO
DO BORING SCIENTIFIC
STUFF, PLUS THERE'S A
MARKETPLACE THERE..."



OF COURSE!
I SHOULD HAVE
THOUGHT OF IT
IMMEDIATELY.

THERE'S
SOMEONE IN THE
MARKET I'VE HEARD
OF WHO COULD
DESTROY IT! SHE
WIELDS BOTH METAL
AND MAGIC.

WHO?

"SHE'S A TROLL WHO
FORGES WEAPONS
FOR SOME OF THE
MORE BARBARIC
RACES OUT THERE."

"A **TROLL**? LIKE
THE KIND THOR
FIGHTS?"

"THAT'S RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN.
SHE ACTUALLY USED TO LIVE IN
NORNHEIM, I UNDERSTAND, BUT
SHE RELOCATED TO KNOWHERE."



YOU ARE
ULICIA?

I HAVE
SOMETHING
I NEED
DESTROYED.

"WHY DID SHE
RELOCATE TO
KNOWHERE?"

"TO GET AWAY FROM HER
BROTHER. HE WANTED TO
KILL HER. APPARENTLY IT'S
A TROLLISH CUSTOM."



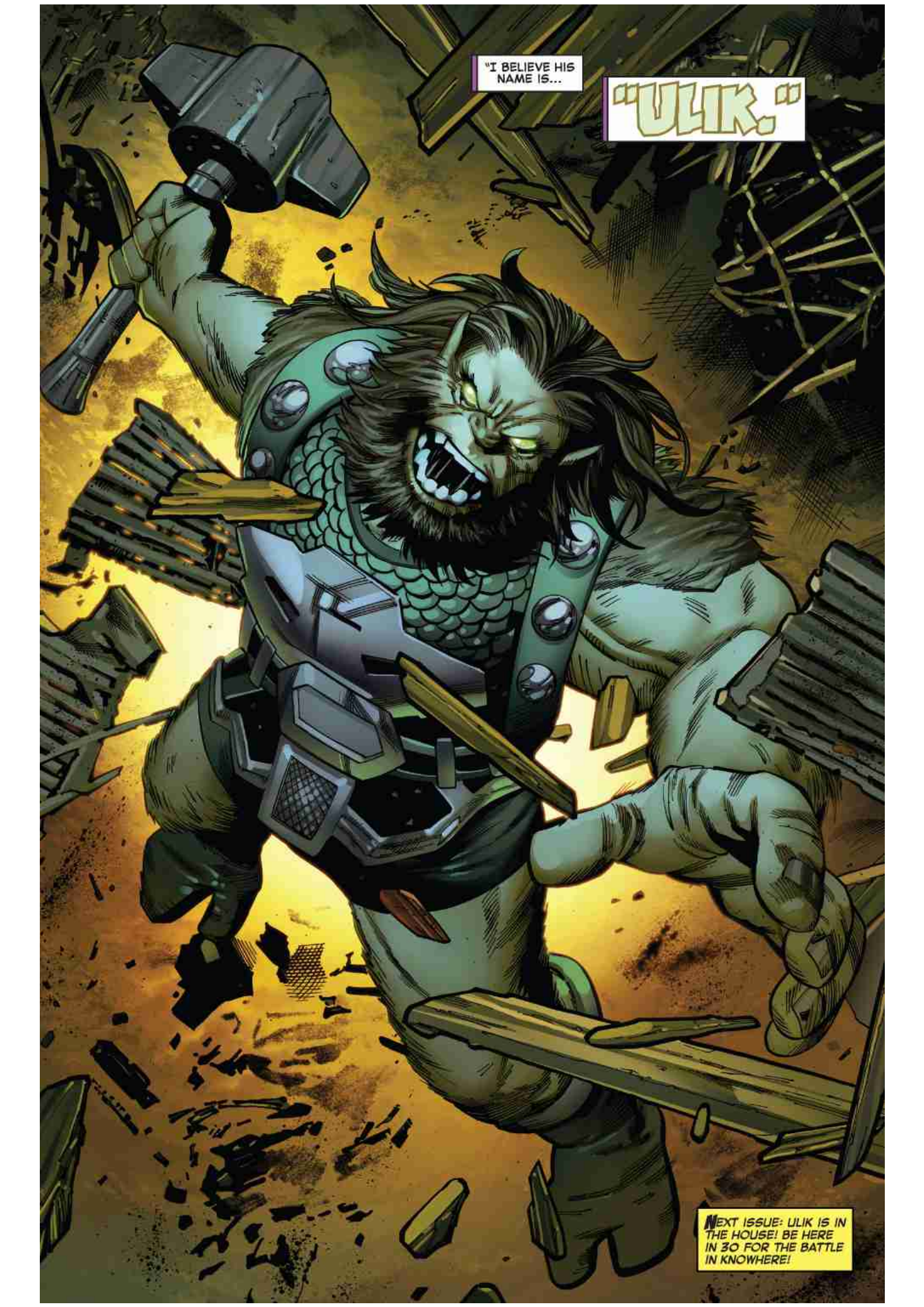
OH NO.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING? WHY
IS EVERYTHING
SHAKING?

HE FOUND
ME. AFTER ALL THIS
TIME...HE'S COMING.



"WAIT...WHO'S
HER BROTHER?"



"I BELIEVE HIS
NAME IS..."

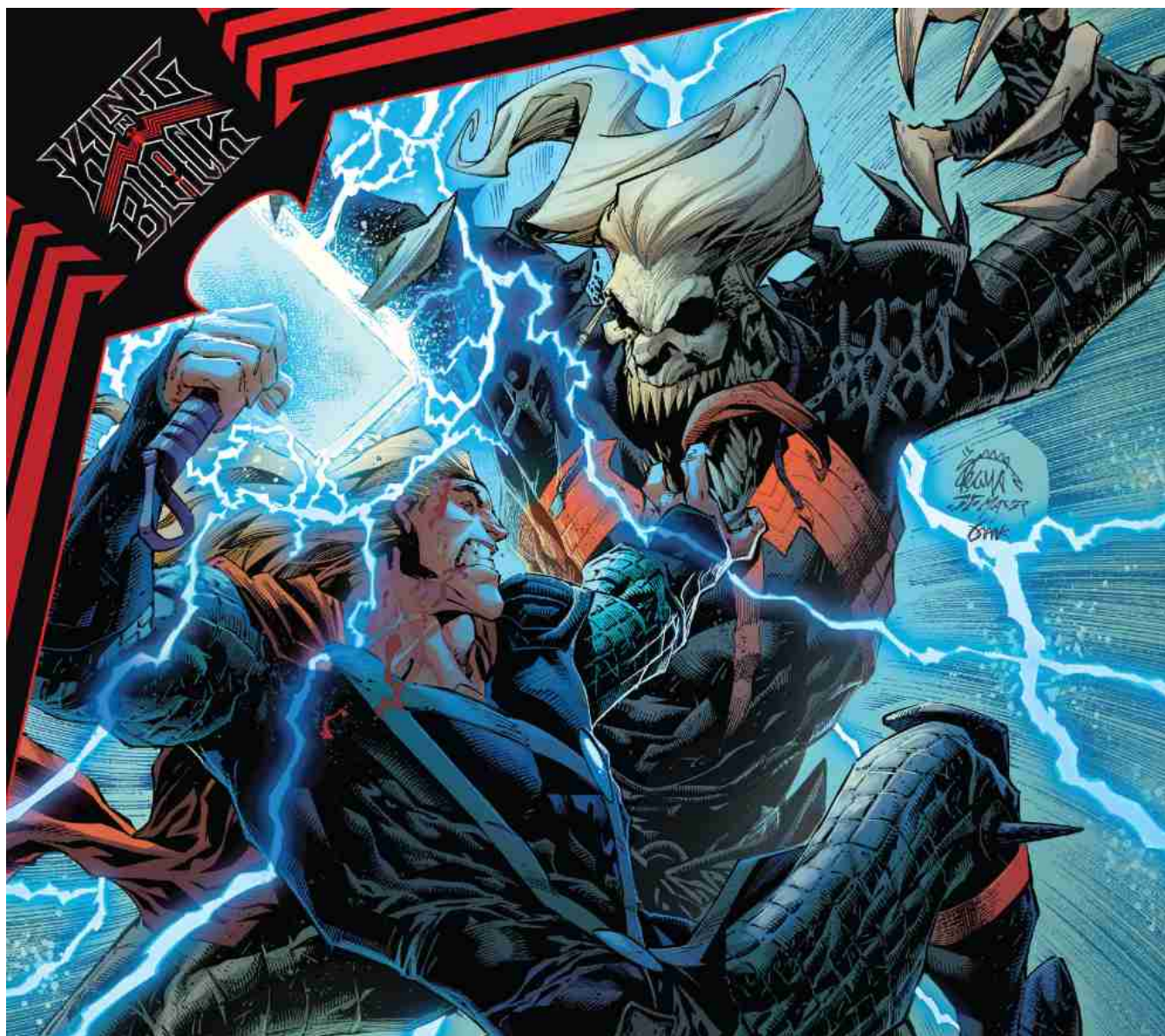
"ULIK."

NEXT ISSUE: ULIK IS IN
THE HOUSE! BE HERE
IN 30 FOR THE BATTLE
IN KNOWHERE!

**KING
IN
BLACK**

**NEXT:
SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN:
KING IN BLACK #4**





CHECKLIST

☒ **VENOM #32**

REST IN PEACE.

☒ **RETURN OF THE VALKYRIES #1**

THE VALKYRIES MUST SAVE THE SOUL OF THE SENTRY!

☒ **SPIDER-WOMAN #8**

JESSICA DREW BREAKS BAD AS DARKNESS FALLS ON MANHATTAN!

☒ **SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN: KING IN BLACK #3**

SPIDER-MAN TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE TO THE SEVERED HEAD OF A CELESTIAL, BETTER KNOWN AS KNOWHERE!

☒ **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #10**

THE GUARDIANS WEREN'T FAST ENOUGH TO SAVE EARTH FROM KNULL—BUT CAN THEY SAVE THEMSELVES?

☐ **KING IN BLACK: GWENOM VS. CARNAGE #1**

A BATTLE OF THE BANDS LIKE NO OTHER: GWEN STACY VS. MARY JANE WATSON!

☐ **KING IN BLACK: NAMOR #3**

TIDES RISE AS NAMOR'S SECRET PAST SPILLS OVER!

☐ **KING IN BLACK: PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES #1**

THE SYMBIOTES SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH? NOT IF SCREAM CAN HELP IT!

☐ **KING IN BLACK: THUNDERBOLTS #1**

WILSON FISK, MAYOR OF NEW YORK, HAS TAKEN MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS...BY ASSEMBLING A TEAM OF VILLAINS TO SAVE NEW YORK!

☐ **S.W.O.R.D. #2**

TO SAVE THE GALAXY, THEY MUST SAVE ONE OF THEIR OWN!

☐ **THE UNION #2**

THE GLOBAL ASSAULT OF SYMBIOTES SPARES NO VICTIMS!

☐ **KING IN BLACK #3 (PICTURED)**

WHAT'S A GOD TO A KING?

☐ **DAREDEVIL #26**

MATT MURDOCK AND ELEKTRA MUST EACH FACE THE DELUGE OF SYMBIOTES CONSUMING THE CITY!

☐ **BLACK CAT #2**

FELICIA IS TASKED WITH SAVING DOCTOR STRANGE—WITH ANTI-VENOM?!

☐ **DEADPOOL #10**

MONSTERS BEWARE—IT'S KING VS. KING FOR STATEN ISLAND!

☐ **KING IN BLACK: BLACK KNIGHT #1**

DANE WHITMAN, THE BLACK KNIGHT, LEARNS THE HORRIBLE HISTORY OF HIS LINEAGE AND THE EBONY BLADE!

☐ **RETURN OF THE VALKYRIES #2**

THE VALKYRIES LEARN MUCH MORE IS AT STAKE THAN JUST EARTH WHEN THEY FIND A LARGE LOOMING SPIRIT ABOVE THE PLANET!

☐ **SAVAGE AVENGERS #17**

CONAN AND DEADPOOL BREAK OUT OF RYKER'S AND ENTER THE FRAY OF SYMBIOTE DRAGONS!

